Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of Claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

1-12 (canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a damage threshold for delivering an antiseptic dose to a pathogen ~~in~~ within a periodontal tissue, the method comprising:

a. measuring a pulsed laser output from a laser source;

b. irradiating a target with the pulsed laser output, wherein the target comprises the pathogen and a material that is different from the periodontal tissue;

c. monitoring the pathogen for ablation within the material;

d. adjusting the pulsed laser output;

e. repeating steps (a) through (d) to determine an ablation threshold of the pathogen within the target; ~~and~~

f. calculating ~~a therapeutic ratio~~ the antiseptic dose of laser radiation for treating the periodontal tissue comprising the pathogen based on a known response of periodontal tissue to the laser output and the ablation threshold of the pathogen within the target; and

g. irradiating the periodontal tissue with the antiseptic dose of laser radiation, wherein the antiseptic dose eradicates the pathogen within the periodontal tissue with a minimal damage to the periodontal tissue.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein adjusting the pulsed laser output comprises controlling a distance between a firing end of the laser source and a surface of the target.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the pulsed laser output is delivered at a repetition rate corresponding to a photo-acoustic of the target.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising selecting a treatment protocol for treating the periodontal tissue that hosts the pathogen based on the therapeutic ratio.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the pulsed laser output corresponds to a wavelength in a range of 580 to 1800 nanometers.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein irradiating the target with the pulsed laser output comprises exposing the target through an optical fiber.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein monitoring the pathogen for ablation comprises scanning an exposed region of the target with an optical scanning means.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein monitoring the pathogen for ablation comprises measuring sound using an audio detector.